University of Alberta

Murmurs

by

Hope Wells

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Masters of Fine Arts

in

Painting

Department of Arts and Design

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Spring 2011
Edmonton, Alberta

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Murmurs

Murmurs, is a series of paintings that offers a glimpse into a *portrait landscape* and seeks to stimulate a sense of human presence, experiences, memories and emotions in the viewer. Landscapes, both internal and external can be felt, sensed, listened to, observed, and savoured to truly appreciate the state of being. The imagery is of human presence and atmosphere threading their way through time, place and space to signify thoughts and emotions surrounding otherness and normalcy.

These paintings do not result from gazing at the wilderness or into a mirror in an attempt to grasp my own identity. The sensation of human presence and experiences goes beyond individual and physical appearances. The human presence is formed and inspired by my lived experiences filtered through memories and reflections, and is abstracted to a level of expression that provides an opening for personal interpretations. Colour, light, and material handling is used to stimulate in the viewer a sense of intimacy and empathy continuing through into a deepening awareness of the beauty and fragility of the subject.

Rolling hills and valleys, traces of paint left by drawn and pulled plastic, create the initial space. Milky transparent paint is poured into the drawing through the linen forever changing the surface into an infinite space. Placing faith in a chance-induced automatic drawing method indicates a level of acceptance that the physical space of the fabric surface will become a "place". The carefully chosen warm, beautiful, and textured linen and silk seduces the viewer into accepting both human's and nature's comforting and disturbing traits. The silk, being woven through and "drawn" on the linen, functions as a poetic metaphor for interactions between humans and our environment.

The meditative and at times dramatic moods of the atmosphere are created to connect and share memories, experiences, emotions and visual thoughts with the viewer. The image as a whole signifies our personal connection to both our psychological and social landscapes. The presence of the viewer in front of the painting creates a possible conversation between the artwork and the thoughts, memories and experiences of the observer. It is my hope that one of these paintings will profoundly touch each viewer on some level and will subtly bring to the surface a smile, memory, a feeling or a thought like a "murmur."

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Wallach, Alan. "Between Subject and Object." Art Seminar: Landscape Theory. Ed. Rachael Ziady DeLue and James Elkins. Vol. 6. New York: Routledge, 2008. 8 vols. 315-322.

"Writing Moods." The Art Seminar: Landscape Theory. Ed. Rachael Ziady DeLue and James Elkins. Vol. 6. New York: Routledge, 2008. 69-86.

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- 2003/04 Grant MacEwan College, first year of Bachelor of Fine Arts. Edmonton, Alberta
- 2004/07 University of Alberta, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting and Sculpture. Edmonton, Alberta
- 2008/2011 University of Alberta, Masters of Fine Art, Painting and Sculpture
- Sept 2008 University of Alberta, Understanding Learning Styles for Successful Student Interaction Workshop, Cathy Olson, Program Coordinator, Extension Faculty
- Sept 2008 Preparing for Successful Lecture Workshop, David Cook, Ph.D., Professor of Studies in Medical Education
- Sept 2008 Delivering a Successful Lecture Workshop, David Cook, Ph.D., Professor of Studies in Medical Education
- Sept 2008 The Agonies and Ecstasies of Teaching Workshop, Candy Sloboda
- Sept 2008 Couch Potatoes Reduction and Cerebral Stimulation Workshop, Candy Sloboda
- Sept 2008 Exploring Intercultural Communications Workshop, Raymond Matthias, International Student Advisor, University of Alberta international
- Sept 2008 What if? Workshop, Candy Sloboda
- Sept 2008 Creating a Positive Classroom Atmosphere Workshop, Robert J. De Frece, Ph.D., Professor of Elementary Education
- Sept 2008 A Crash Course in Copyrights Workshop, Cindy Paul, Copyright License Admin. Learning Service
- Sept 2008 Ways to Interact with Difficult Students in the Classroom and In the Office Workshop, Gretchen C. Hess, Ph.D.
- Nov 2009-Dec 2009 University Teaching Enhancement Workshop, University of Alberta Teaching Services
- Jan 2011 Instructional Skills (IS) Program, University of Alberta through Centre of Teaching and Learning
- Mar 2011 Masters of Fine Arts, Painting, University of Alberta

Work Experience

- 1988 – 2002 — Pervious career as Business Owner, Training Manager and Assistant Manager
- 2007 – 2008 — DeSerres Art Supplies, Supervisor (Assistant Manager) Edmonton, Alberta
- Oct. 2008 — University of Alberta, Design 493 Image Creation Workshop Facilitator (Manipulation of the spontaneous mark project, this project is now being used in other design courses)
- Jan 2009-Apr 2009 — University of Alberta, Teaching Assistant (Painting 311)
- Jan 2010-Apr 2010 — University of Alberta, Teaching Assistant (Art Fundamental 134)
- May 2010 — Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture, Member of the Art Collection Advisory Committee with 2010 Youth Art Acquisitions
- Sept 2010-Dec 2010 — University of Alberta, Term Instructor (Painting 310 Intro to Acrylic Painting)

Scholarships

- 2009 — University of Alberta Scholarship $2927.00
- 2009 — Alberta Advance Education & Technology Students Finances Scholarship $5080.00
- 2009 — Alberta Advance Education's Achievement Scholarship, $3,000.00
- 2009 — Profiling Alberta's Graduate Student Award, $1270.00
- 2006 — Jason Lang Scholarship Fund, Government of Alberta, Alberta Learning, $1000.00
- 2004 — Millennium Bursary – Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, $3,000.00

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 — FAB Gallery, 'Murmurs: Thesis Exhibition', University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2006 — Snap Gallery, 'Excursions: Early Ventures in Print Media', Edmonton, Alberta
- 2007 — FAB Gallery, ' Amalgam', University of Alberta Senior Work, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2009 — FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonon, 'Germinations: Recent works by Alberta MFA and MDES students'

Juried Selected Exhibitions

- Sept 2009 — The Artfulness of Play: Bridging Creative and Theoretical Discourse Graduate Conference, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

Selected Collections

- Hopp Reality Inc, Edmonton, Alberta
- University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

wells.01
#55
2011
Acrylic and silk on raw linen
26″ x 78″

wells.02
#99
2011
Acrylic and silk on raw linen
26″ x 78″

wells.03
#39
2011
Acrylic, glass, rayon fibred paper and silk on raw linen
50½″ x 55½″

wells.04
#29
2011
Acrylic, glass and sand on paper
22¼″ x 21¾″

wells.05
First room FAB Gallery
2011
wells.01, wells.02, wells.03

wells.06
First room FAB Gallery
2011
wells.03, wells.04

wells.07
#42
2011
Acrylic and silk on raw linen
52¼″ x 55″

wells.08
#28
2011
Acrylic, enamel and sand on raw linen
72" x 87¼"

wells.09
Second room FAB Gallery
2011
#42

wells.10
Second room FAB Gallery
2011
#28

wells.11
#37
2011
Acrylic and glass beads on raw linen
52" x 55"

wells.12
#34
2011
Acrylic, sand, glass, beads and silk on raw linen
72" x 87¼"

wells.13
#8
2011
Acrylic, dry pigment, rayon paper, twine paper and silk on raw linen
77½ x 87¼"

wells.14
Third room FAB Gallery
2011
wells.11, wells.12

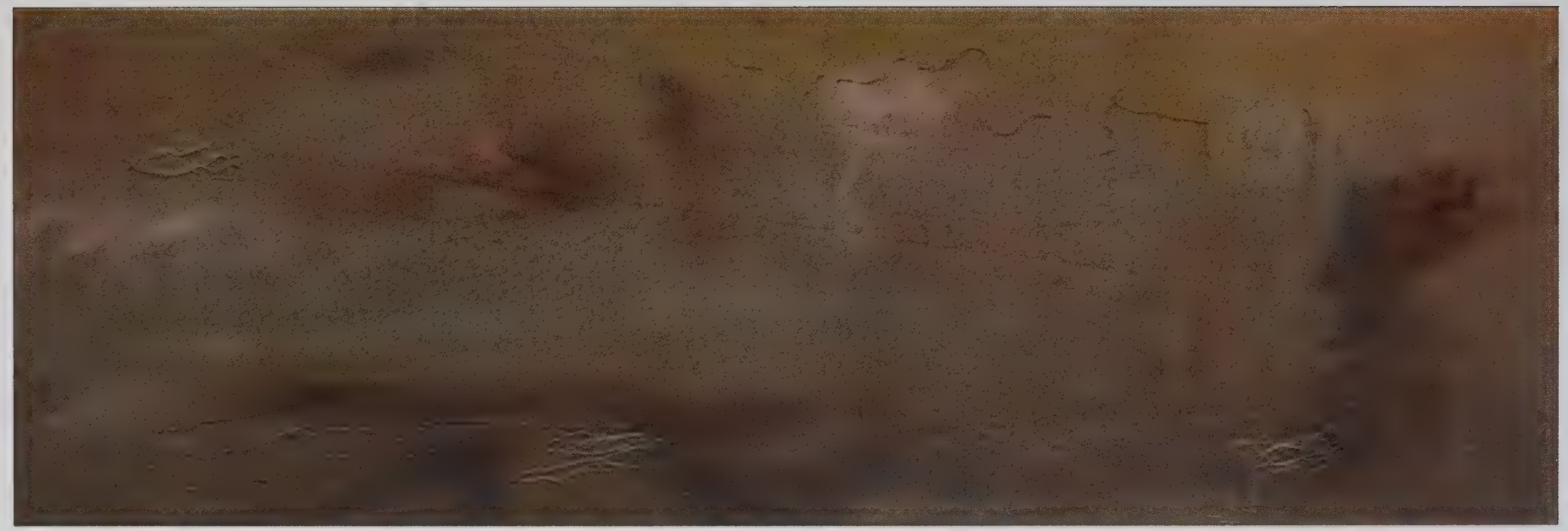
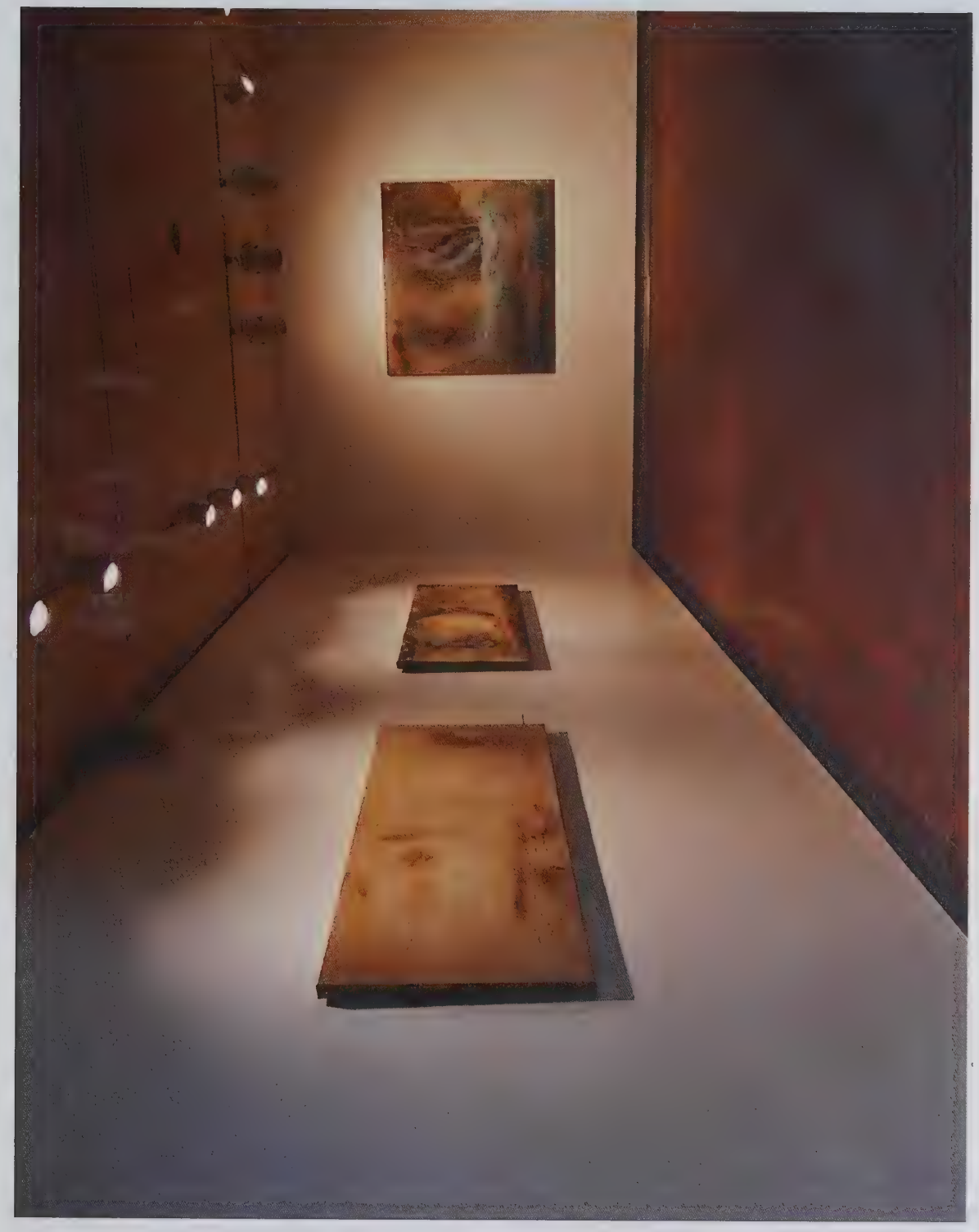
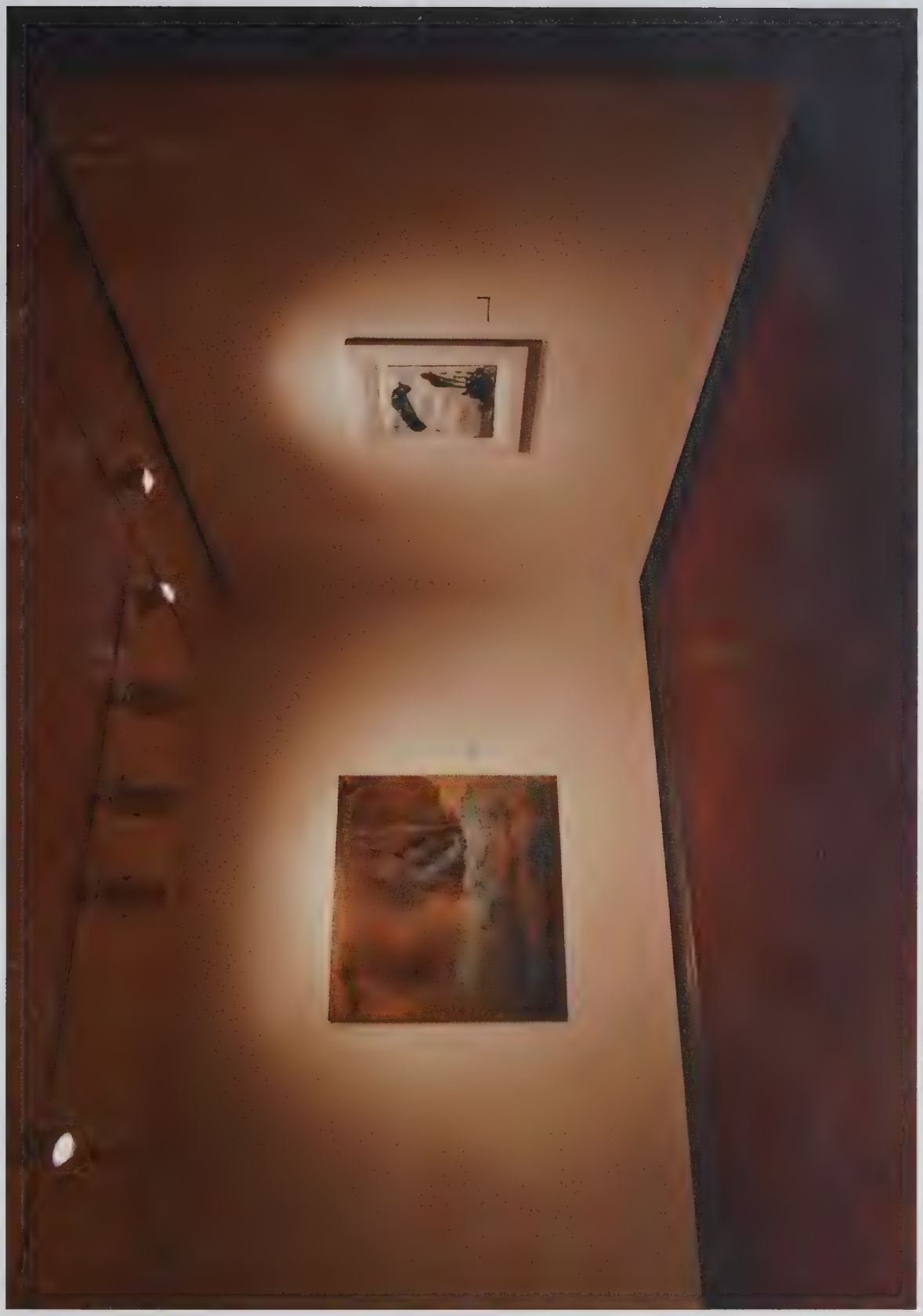
wells.15
Third room FAB Gallery
2011
wells.12, wells.13

wells.16
#31
2011
Acrylic, dry pigment, twine paper and silk on raw linen
28½" x 91"

wells.17
#61
2011
Acrylic and silk on raw linen
79½" x 82"

wells.18
detail of #61
2011
Acrylic and silk on raw linen

wells.19
#1
2011
Acrylic, glass and silk on linen
61" x 55"

wells.20
Forth room FAB Gallery
2011
wells.16, wells.17, wells.19

Hope Painting
Angelique Wells
2011